

PRESS RELEASE

Erik C. Peterson
United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin
(608) 264-5158
TTY (608) 264-5006
www.usdoj.gov/usao/wiw

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Contact Person

Dan Graber
Assistant U.S. Attorney

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Michael Hughes, 33, Beloit, Wisconsin was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in Madison to 188 months in prison for distributing crack cocaine.

Throughout the fall of 2006, undercover officers from the Rock County Safe Streets Task Force purchased crack cocaine from Hughes. On January 18, 2007, Hughes sold 7 grams of crack cocaine for \$350 to an informant working on behalf of the police.

The charges against the defendant were the result of an investigation conducted by the Rock County Safe Streets Task Force comprised of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the Drug Enforcement Administration; the Rock County Sheriff's Department; the Beloit Police Department; the Janesville Police Department; and the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau. To date, a total of 36 defendants have been convicted of federal drug and gun charges resulting from Task Force investigations. The prosecution of Hughes was handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Dan Graber.

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